

JOURNAL

OF THE

Proceedings of a Meeting of the Board of Trustees

FROM THE

OLD THIRTEEN STATES,

HELD IN

THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 12, 1860,

IN FURTHERANCE OF THE RECOMMENDATION OF A CONVENTION
OF DELEGATES FROM THOSE STATES, TO ERECT A

Monument in Independence Square,

TO

COMMEMORATE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE,

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY COLONEL A. G.
WATERMAN, OF THE SELECT COUNCIL,

AND

ADOPTED BY BOTH BRANCHES OF THE COUNCILS OF PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA :

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PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST DAY.

The Trustees appointed by the Thirteen States to superintend the erection of a Monument in honor of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, held their first meeting at Philadelphia, on Tuesday, 12th of June, 1860.

Having assembled in Carpenters' Hall, there were found to be present, at 11 o'clock, the following persons:—

MR. WATERMAN, of Pennsylvania; MR. NOYES, of New York; MR. CHRISTY, of New Hampshire; MR. ALEXANDER, of New Jersey; MR. MAXWELL, of Delaware; MR. BURGESS, of Rhode Island; MR. ALEXANDER, of Maryland; and MR. ADAMS, of Massachusetts—Trustees.

MR. WRIGHT, of New Jersey, of the Committee appointed at the first meeting of delegates, to obtain plans and estimates, was present also.

COL. W. C. ALEXANDER, of New Jersey, was chosen as Chairman, and MR. ADAMS, of Massachusetts, Secretary.

On motion of COL. WATERMAN,

Resolved, That a Committee of Three be appointed, to prepare and report the order of business for the consideration of the Convention; and prepare and lay before the Convention the draft of an address to be presented to the Legislatures of the old Thirteen States. The resolution was adopted, and Col. Waterman, of Pennsylvania, Mr. Noyes, of New York, and Mr. Alexander, of Maryland, were appointed on the Committee.

Voted, To adjourn until to-morrow, 13th instant, at half-past nine o'clock, A. M.

Attest,

C. F. ADAMS, *Secretary.*

SECOND DAY.

The Trustees met, pursuant to adjournment, in the Carpenters' Hall, present,

Wm. C. ALEXANDER, of New Jersey, Chairman; A. G. WATERMAN, of Pennsylvania; WALTER S. BURGESS, of Rhode Island; Wm. ALEXANDER, of Maryland; Wm. CURTIS NOYES, of New York; DANIEL M. CHRISTIE, of New Hampshire; GEORGE MAXWELL, of Delaware. GEN. R. V. WRIGHT, of New Jersey, of the former Committee, was present, as before.

On motion, duly seconded,

MR. NOYES, of New York, was appointed Secretary in the absence of Mr. Adams, of Massachusetts.

On motion of Mr. Burgess, of Rhode Island, the Hon. JOEL B. SUTHERLAND, of Pennsylvania, who had been an early advocate and promoter of the enterprise of building a Monument to commemorate the Declaration of Independence, was invited to an honorary seat in the Board.

Mr. Sutherland appeared, and in returning thanks for the invitation, addressed the Board in fervent and patriotic terms.

COL. WATERMAN, from the Committee appointed at the National Convention of the original Thirteen States, held in Philadelphia in July, 1852, to procure plans, designs, and estimates of the proposed Monument, submitted the following report :—

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 12, 1860.

To the Honorable the Board of Trustees of the original Thirteen States, charged with the erection of a Monument in Independence Square, commemorative of the Signers of the Declaration of American Independence :

GENTLEMEN :—

On the fifth day of July, 1852, the delegates representing ten of the original thirteen States, met in Convention, in Philadelphia, and adopted the following resolution, viz.:—

“Resolved, That a Committee of five members be appointed by the President, to solicit from the artists of the country, plans, designs, and estimates of the expenses of the Independence Monument, and to obtain all other needful information respecting the erection of the monument ; and to submit the whole, with their views on the subject, to the Trustees appointed by the States contributing to the fund, whenever at least nine shall be appointed by as many States.”

In pursuance of the foregoing resolution, his Excellency, WILLIAM BIGLER, President of the Convention, appointed the following gentlemen, viz.:—A. G. Waterman, Charles Francis Adams, Samuel Dinsmore, Murray Hoffman, and Edwin R. V. Wright.

Your Committee, in obedience to the requisition of said resolution, met in September last, in the city of New York, when proposals were issued, and appropriate publication made of the same. The designs, etc., were to be presented to the Chairman, on or before the end of the year 1859, and it was contemplated by the Committee to re-assemble for their examination shortly thereafter, but the indisposition of the Chairman induced a postponement; the Committee believing that a more perfect judgment might be secured by the presence and aid of the Trustees, in whose decision the final adoption of the favored plan was, by the action of the Convention, reposed.

Boldness and simplicity marked the age in which our ancestors framed that immortal “Declaration.” The Committee believe that the fitness of the design cannot be preserved in the selection of any plan which might be distinguished rather for its ornamentation, than for its solidity and simplicity. Some fifty designs have been presented to the Committee, and, after the most careful examination, they have come to the conclusion, that many have been prepared without any regard to the proposals issued by the Committee, or, what is more probable, from a misconception of the terms in which the object of the Committee was stated. We are not prepared to say, that, were some of them less ornate, an appropriate selection might not be made; but, as our duties were clearly defined in the resolution of appointment, we deem the only course left to us is to place the responsibility of examination, selection, and decision, where it must ultimately go—into the hands and under the control of the Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,

By order of the Committee.

A. G. WATERMAN,
Chairman.

On motion, duly seconded, the said report was adopted.

MR. CHRISTIE, of New Hampshire, offered the following resolution :—

Resolved, That a permanent President of this Board, and a permanent Secretary, who need not be a member of the Board, be appointed by the Chair.

The said resolution being duly seconded, was adopted.

The Chair then appointed COL. A. G. WATERMAN, the Trustee of the State of Pennsylvania, permanent President of the Board, and J. R. FRY, Esq., of the city of Philadelphia, permanent Secretary, in pursuance of the said resolution.

MR. CHRISTIE, of New Hampshire, offered the following resolution :—

Resolved, That a Committee of Six, consisting of the permanent President of the Board, and the Trustees of the States of New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, be and the same is hereby appointed, with power to lay the corner-stone of the Monument, at such time as they may deem proper, to take charge of the moneys that may be appropriated by the States, and to disburse the same ; and, after a majority of the contributing States shall have made the appropriations required, to make a contract for the erection of the Monument ; and that such Committee also have power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the office of Secretary of the Board, and to perform such incidental duties as may become necessary.

Col. A. G. Waterman, the permanent President of the Board, then took his seat as such, and expressed his thanks for the honor conferred upon him.

The resolution last offered by Mr. Christie, being duly seconded, was adopted.

The President, as Chairman of the Committee appointed yesterday, in regard to the order of business, reported an Address to the People and Legislatures of the original Thirteen States, in the following words:—

To the People and Legislatures of the States of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia:—

The undersigned, constituting a majority of the trustees appointed under an act of the Legislatures of all the States above enumerated, except Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, to aid in the construction of a monument commemorative of the Declaration of Independence, having assembled in the city of Philadelphia to discharge the duty confided to them, of determining “the design, plan, material, and expenses of the said monument, and to prepare a statement exhibiting the proportion to be contributed by each of the original Thirteen States, to defray the said expenses,” and to determine where the monument shall be erected, beg leave to submit the following as the result of their deliberations:—

As the acts of two of the State Legislatures limited the whole expense of the monument to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, that sum we fixed as the cost of the structure, and all the plans and estimates have assumed that amount, as the only fund with which the monument is to be built.

Appropriately, to commemorate an event so important as the birth of a great nation, this is comparatively a small sum, and the expenditure of the whole of it is deemed absolutely necessary, not only to the fitness of the monument itself, but

to the sense of gratitude as well as the dignity of the Commonwealths by whose contributions it is to be reared.

Inasmuch as three of the original Thirteen States have not yet passed any laws for sharing in the honor and expense of the erection, the trustees have appropriated the sum required among the ten assenting States, as directed by the several acts, "assuming as a rule for such proportion the numerical representation at this time in the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States," and the amounts to be paid by those States respectively will be as follows:—

New Hampshire,	3 Representatives,	-	-	-	\$4,590
Massachusetts,	11 "	-	-	-	16,830
Rhode Island,	2 "	-	-	-	3,060
Connecticut,	4 "	-	-	-	6,120
New York,	33 "	-	-	-	50,490
New Jersey,	5 "	-	-	-	7,650
Pennsylvania,	25 "	-	-	-	38,250
Delaware,	1 "	-	-	-	1,530
Maryland,	6 "	-	-	-	9,180
Georgia,	8 "	-	-	-	12,240

These amounts will be proportionally reduced, when the remaining States shall pass similar laws.

In the judgment of the Trustees, the instalment of the contributions will be required, and they respectfully call for them at the following times:—

One-fourth on the first day of July, 1861, and the remainder in three equal instalments, payable on the first day of January, 1862, the first day of July, 1862, and the first day of January, 1863.

In the beginning of the movement for this national testimonial to the wisdom and valor of our Fathers, and at the convention of the delegates from the original Thirteen States, held in Independence Hall, on the fourth day of July, 1852, a Committee of five of its members was appointed to obtain designs, plans, and estimates of the proposed monument, which

the Trustees have examined with all the attention demanded by the importance of the subject. The task of selection from so many works of merit as have been submitted, proved a difficult one, and at present the Trustees have not been so fortunate as to come to a definite conclusion so as to adopt any one of them. Having in view, however, the durability of the structure, which they regard as of paramount importance, they have determined that the material shall be granite; and remembering the unostentatious manners and habits of the men who inaugurated that noble declaration, they have also determined that the Monument shall be distinguished for its simplicity.

The design decided upon by the Trustees, embraces a structure of granite of thirteen sides, resting on a base of sixty feet; the thirteen sides to be united by an entablature, on which will be graven the Declaration of Independence; the whole to be surmounted by a tower or shaft of thirteen sides, each side containing a niche, or space, for the insertion of panels, or tablets of marble, or other stone, from the several States, bearing such illustrations as each one may determine and provide, keeping in view the harmonious character of the whole work.

Designating, as it will, to all future generations, the most heroic act of our fathers, no place for its erection was considered appropriate, except Independence Square; in the Hall adjoining which the first nationally-embodied demand for freedom was made; where was offered the resolution that the colonies were, and of right ought to be, independent States; and where the Continental Congress, with sacred unanimity, adopted the Declaration of Independence. The Trustees have therefore selected a favorable spot within that historical enclosure, in itself monumental, as the site of the monument.

A permanent organization of the Trustees as a Board was effected by the choice of Col. Albert G. Waterman, the Trustee of the State of Pennsylvania, as President, and of J. R. Fry, Esq., of the city of Philadelphia, as Secretary, and a Committee

of Six, consisting of the President of the Board, and of the Trustees of the States of New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, was appointed to secure and take charge of the money to be contributed. Upon this Committee also devolves the general superintendence of the work in its commencement and progress, subject to the control of the Board.

In finally determining the design of the monument, the Trustees will carefully observe the injunction of the several acts under which they derive their powers, that "an appropriate place on the exterior of the monument shall be provided for each contributing State, to contain such inscriptions as the State shall provide, commemorative of some citizen or citizens of her own, who took part in the responsibility of the Declaration of Independence of the States."

The means by which the Trustees may readily fulfill the duties of their office, are defined by a section of the acts passed by the assenting States, which declares, "*that upon receiving the Report of the Trustees of the plan, material, and expense of the monument, and their estimate of each State's proportion of the expense, the Legislatures respectively will make provision for payment of the same, in such instalments as the Trustees shall have declared to be necessary.*"

In order to carry into effect the intentions contained in this provision, as well as to perfect the unity and completeness of the monument and its inscriptions, the concurrence of all the original Thirteen States is of course desirable; and the Trustees are happy in being able to say, that although three of them have not as yet given their assent to the measure, still that acts for that purpose have been passed in one branch of each of their Legislatures, and have only failed to become laws for want of time to mature them. It is not doubted that the patriotic citizens and Legislatures of those States will cordially co-operate in this great historic work, thus testifying and perpetuating their gratitude, veneration, and love, and com-

memorating, by a united effort, the event which gave to our country liberty and union, and constituted it one of the greatest among the nations of the earth.

It is the purpose of the Trustees to lay the corner-stone of the Monument, if the necessary appropriation laws shall be passed in the meantime, on the fourth day of July, 1861, with suitable military and civic observances; and they respectfully request that laws may be passed prior to that time, so that the work may proceed to its completion without unnecessary delay. The passage of such laws having been pledged by the Legislatures of the several States under whose authority and as whose representatives the Trustees have convened, they confidently anticipate their early adoption as dictated alike by duty and patriotism.

On motion of Mr. Noyes, duly seconded, the said Address was adopted, and ordered to be signed by the Officers of the Board, and published, with the proceedings of the Board, in pamphlet form.

It signed, accordingly, as follows:—

A. G. WATERMAN, *President.*

Wm. CURTIS NOYES, *Secretary.*

DANIEL M. CHRISTIE, *Trustee for New Hampshire.*

WM. C. ALEXANDER, *Trustee for New Jersey.*

WM. CURTIS NOYES, *Trustee for New York.*

GEORGE MAXWELL, *Trustee for Delaware.*

WALTER S. BURGESS, *Trustee for Rhode Island.*

WILLIAM ALEXANDER, *Trustee for Maryland.*

CHA'S FRANCIS ADAMS, *Trustee for Massachusetts.*

RALPH J. INGERSOLL, *Trustee for Connecticut.*

Although not present at the Meeting of the Trustees who prepared the foregoing Address, I hereby signify my approval thereof, and think the work on the Monument should proceed, whenever the necessary appropriations by the several Thirteen Old States be made.

ASBURY HULL, *one of the Trustees for Georgia.*

A. G. WATERMAN, *Trustee for Pennsylvania.*

On motion of Mr. Noyes, duly seconded,

Resolved, That the Board will now proceed to select a site for the Monument in Independence Square.

And for that purpose, the Board took a recess accordingly until 8 o'clock this evening.

E V E N I N G S E S S I O N .

The Board met as before.

The President announced that the Board had examined Independence Square after the recess, and had unanimously selected the centre of the broad walk, between the south side of Independence Hall and the Walnut street gate, at a point equi-distant from the Hall and the gate, as the site of the Monument; whereupon,

On motion, duly seconded, the said selection was confirmed.

On motion of Mr. Noyes, duly seconded by Mr. Alexander, of New Jersey,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Board be tendered to the city of Philadelphia, and its Councils, for its generous hospitality; and to the Committee of the Councils for the graceful manner in which they have discharged their duties, and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chairman of the Committee.

The Board then, on motion, adjourned.

WM. CURTIS NOYES,
Secretary.

Annexed is a form of a Preamble and Act, suggested as proper for the adoption of the Legislatures of such States as are pledged to co-operate in the erection of the Monument.

AN ACT

To carry into effect the Act entitled, "An Act to aid the Erection of a Monument commemorative of the Declaration of American Independence," passed June 23d, 1853.

Whereas, The Legislature of this State did on — day of — pass an Act, pledging the State to co-operate with other States of the Original Thirteen, in the erection of a Monument in Independence Square, in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, commemorative of the Declaration of Independence, and appointed a Trustee to represent her in all proceedings to consummate the object: *And whereas*, The State did, in the same act, further pledge herself, that when nine, or more of the States, should have passed bills for the same purpose, and the Trustees from such States should determine the plan, materials, and expense of said Monument, and prepare a statement exhibiting the proportion to be contributed by each of the assenting States, the General Assembly would make provision for the payment of the same, in such manner and in such instalments as the Board of Trustees shall have declared to be necessary; Therefore,

The People of the State of ——, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :—

SECTION 1. The sum of —— dollars, being the proportion to be contributed by this State toward the erection of the said Monument, under, and in pursuance of said Act, is hereby appropriated for that purpose, and the same shall be paid to the Board of Trustees, having in charge the construction of the said Monument, in three annual instalments, on the first days of July, 1861, January, 1862, July, 1862, and January, 1863, in accordance with the requisition of the said Board of Trustees, and the same shall be expended by them in constructing the said Monument, and in building a sufficient railing around the same.

